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SAMUEL BALL PLATNER

1863-1921

Samuel Ball Platner died suddenly at sea on the twentieth of August, 1921, while on his way to Europe. His entire life had been devoted to the study and teaching of the classics, and for the last twenty-nine years he had been Professor of Latin in Western Reserve University. He was a man of genuine taste for scholarship, satisfied with nothing less than a deep and original grasp of his subject, and constantly active in the endeavor to contribute to the knowledge of it. In the earlier part of his career his studies were mostly of a linguistic nature; but during the last twenty years he devoted himself mainly to Roman history and topography. He is best known for his *Topography and Monuments of Ancient Rome*, which is now in its second edition and is universally recognized as a careful and comprehensive work. At the time of his death he had almost finished a dictionary of Roman topography, and it is cause for deep satisfaction that Thomas Ashby of the British School at Rome, who collaborated in the early stages of the work, has consented to complete and bring out this dictionary. It will be an important tool for all who devote themselves to serious study of the Eternal City.

For his pupils, as well as for himself, Professor Platner always maintained a notably high standard of intellectual thoroughness. In his classroom he insisted on a real mastery of the subject he taught; and by his own example no less than his pedagogical methods he impressed his students with the grandeur of solid learning and the depth of real culture. He was possessed of a rare and charming personality. His large-heartedness, unfailing geniality, and rich humor made him universally beloved, and his death, at the age of fifty-seven, has left a heavy sense of loss to the many classical scholars who knew him.

CLARENCE P. BILL.